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HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

James R. Madalena

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO APPROPRIATE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION AND TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry, a farming and agribusiness enterprise of the Navajo Nation, was formed in 1970 to develop the Navajo Nation's agricultural economy on the lands of the Navajo Indian irrigation project; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's customers include major food processing companies throughout the United States and internationally, and the "Navajo Pride" brand has gained wide consumer acceptance as an excellent high-quality product; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry is a diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly contributes over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) annually to the regional economy and employs three hundred full-time

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1 employees and one thousand seasonal employees during peak
2 operations; and

3 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's
4 future projects include continued crop diversification, food
5 processing plants, modern crop storage and processing
6 facilities to fulfill customer packaging preferences and peak
7 market demands; and

8 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry uses
9 water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to
10 cultivate sixty thousand acres and, since the project
11 completion schedule has been delayed by more than twenty
12 years, the industry cannot cultivate the remaining fifty
13 thousand acres; and

14 WHEREAS, further completion delays of the irrigation
15 project will have negative impacts through lost economic
16 benefits to the Navajo agricultural products industry and the
17 Navajo Nation's plans for a self-sustaining agricultural-based
18 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry board
20 of directors has requested assistance and support from the
21 United States congress and the president of the United States
22 in securing adequate and sustained funding for the timely
23 completion of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to
24 increase the appropriation for the bureau of Indian affairs
25 irrigation canal operation and maintenance, which the Navajo
agricultural products industry contracts from the bureau of
Indian affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the

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1 Navajo agricultural products industry and the Navajo Nation's
2 efforts to provide a self-sustaining agricultural-based
3 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be
5 requested to appropriate enough funds to complete construction
6 of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to sustain
7 appropriations for the bureau of Indian affairs to operate and
8 maintain the project; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the state engineer, the New Mexico
11 congressional delegation, the president of the United States,
12 the Navajo agricultural products industry board of directors,
13 the Navajo Nation president and the Navajo Nation council.